Report on banned medicines

3932. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi High Court recently asked for a report on medicines banned World-wide;

(b) the complete details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the banned medicines which are prohibited for children below three years are being used in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has, however, asked for a report on the safety and approval of the drug Nimesulide and its formulations in the matter of a PIL filed by Social Jurist Vs. Govt. of India. A detailed examination has been undertaken by an expert committee (Sub-Committee) of Drug Technical Advisory Board to deliberate on the issue concerning the safety of Nimesulide, including its use in children. More than 20 expert paediatricians across the country and the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) were consulted. Majority of experts have confirmed the reliability of Nimesulide and no serious adverse reaction in children have been reported in the country. The drug has not been prohibited in any of the major countries of the world either for adult use or paediatric use.

Preventive action against SARS

3933. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pneumonia (SARS) scare failed to goad Government to take prompt preventive action in India;

(b) whether Government are aware that TV media coverage on 4th April, 2003 has shown that the much hyped arrangements for checking of passengers arriving from Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, etc. at the airports were not seen and that the passengers were cleared without adequate safeguards;

(c) the steps taken to make adequate arrangements and whether situation has improved now; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Following reports of outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in some countries Government of India has taken adequate steps to prevent entry of the disease in to the country and to isolate and treat a case if reported. The steps include screening of all persons disembarking in India for symptoms of suspect/probable SARS cases. For this purpose a proforma has been prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and handed over to concerned authorities. The health care facilities at International Airports and Ports have been strengthened by deploying additional doctors and evolving a standard operating protocol. The health staff is monitoring passengers disembarking in India to report any suspected case and to take further appropriate action.

Hospitals have been identified with isolation facilities where the passengers with SARS like symptoms would be immediately shifted for further management.

Prevalence of spurious drugs in the Market

3934. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government with the assistance of an N.G.O. namely the Delhi Society for the Promotion of Rational Use of Drugs (DSPRUD) has undertaken an extensive survey of the market in Delhi, Haryana, M.P. and U.P. to gauge the prevalence of spurious drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the task force constituted to undertake the work consists of qualified pharmacists to help it in its work;

(d) by when the report is likely to finalized and published; and

(e) what steps are in the meanwhile being taken to curb the sale of spurious drugs in the market which has assumed alarming proportions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Delhi Society for the Promotion of Rational Use of Drugs (DSPRUD)—a non-governmental organization has informed that they would be conducting a survey as a